

YELLOWSTONE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEMBERS: Carbon, Custer, Dawson, Park, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Yellowstone, McKenzie County North Dakota, MACD, RAC Chairman

Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2007 Tele-Conference Call

Members Present: Paul Gilbert, Sweet Grass CD; Phil Fox Treasure CD; Tony Barone, Richland CD; Kenny Nemitz, Dawson CD; Bob Hector, Yellowstone CD; Steve Story, Stillwater CD; Don Youngbauer, Rosebud CD; John Moorhouse, RAC; and Orvin Finsaas, McKenzie ND.CD.

Others Present: Ray Beck, Jim Robinson, Rick Duncan and Laurie Zeller, DNRC; Warren Kellogg, NRCS; Mike Penfold, YRF; Burt Williams, RAC/TAC; Nicole McClain, YRCDC Coordinator; Gay Easton, YCD; Kelly Gilbertson Project Assistant and Carol Watts, Custer CD.

Chairman Don Youngbauer called the tele-conference to order at 2:30 pm February 7, 2007. Each person announced their names for roll call.

Ray Beck, DNRC spoke first about the funding situation for the YRCDC. Committee action was taken last week that would leave the YRCDC at their base budget amount of \$60,000.00, but the additional funding of \$40,000.00 that was requested was not approved. There is still a chance to get the additional \$40,000.00. No action is required at this time but a strategy was formed to contact legislators in the future about reinstating this funding. Ray will be in contact with Nicole McClain to inform the Council members and others when it will be appropriate to make these contacts. It may be necessary to write letters to the delegates representing the Yellowstone Basin. Nicole will be sending out a list of Senators and Representatives, Committee members, sample letters and talking points. It is important to stress that we are a grass roots group and our goal is to gather scientific information and maintain local leadership in the Yellowstone River Cumulative Effects Study.

Channel Migration Zone Mapping: Jim Robinson explained the channel migration zone mapping contract with DTM. The mapping project was approved by the Council earlier and requests for proposals were sent out. The DTM proposal is the only one that was received. The proposal was complete and met all the requirements outlined in the RFP. The contract was for \$43,000.00 and will be completed in approximately 8 months. The product will be a series of maps that will be published at a county level to depict the channel migration zone combined with the inundation modeling work. It will also be available electronically. The area is Sweet Grass County through McKenzie County N.D. and would be added to work already completed in Park County. This will be an important product that will go a long way towards meeting the Council goals of developing best management practices (BMPs). The bid was \$13,000.00 more than expected, but it is still considered a bargain. Robinson asked for the Council to approve the contract that was included with the proposal. Funding comes from the 2005 RDGP grant. Carol Watts asked for clarification and told the Council that the contract had been signed at their board meeting. It was confirmed that the proposal, scope of work, and contract were all in one package. No other subcontract will be necessary. John Moorhouse made a motion to certify Custer County's signature on the contract, Bob Hector seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

Grants: Warren Kellogg gave an update on the CIG grant application. This is a grant through NRCS and the competition is nation wide. The plan was to use the material from the EPA grant application to include in this grant. Part of the CIG grant process required review and a letter by the NRCS State Conservationist. Since the writing of the grant started so late, it was not possible to meet that deadline. This application has been abandoned, but the information will be saved for a future grant application. Warren suggested that a committee be formed to review the grant application to make that process more efficient. This will be discussed at the March YRCDC meeting.

The hearing for the 223 grant will be held February 22, 2007. Letters of support are recommended. Nicole will be traveling to Helena for the hearing with Bob Hector. This grant is for funding the Yellowstone River clean up project which will take place July 21-29, 2007. There will be 64 fishing sites along the river involved in the project.

Don Youngbauer asked if anyone had any objection to Nicole attending the grant writing workshop in Bozeman April 16-19, 2007. There was discussion about this at the January meeting, but no approval was given. Cost is \$750.00. Paul Gilbert made a motion for Nicole to attend the workshop, Steve Story seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

The next meeting of the Council will be Thursday, March 22, 2007. The TAC is scheduled to meet on March 20 and 21 in Billings.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Watts